

The French Methodist Institute, Montreal, Que.



Preparing the Way



By

Rev. Paul Villard, M.A., M.D.

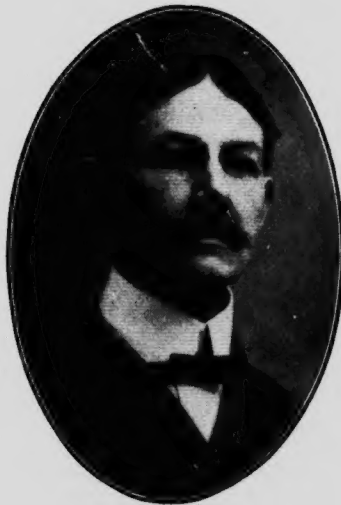




Principal Paul Villard, M.A., M.D.



Mrs. Paul Villard.



Mr. B. Lizotte,
Teacher.



Mr. E. Sonet,
Teacher.

Teachers in the French Methodist Institute.

Preparing the Way



Our French Methodist Institute
and its place in the Solution
of a Great Problem



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Methodist Y. P. Forward Movement for Missions

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Preparing the Way.

The late Franco-Prussian war, it has been said, was won by the German school teachers. They had prepared the nation, instilling in the minds of the youths an ardent patriotism, filling their very souls with a fiery enthusiasm and with the supreme ideal that they were to conquer or to die.

We are also fighting in our land, fighting against ignorance, error and superstition. Truth is our Banner, the Bible our offensive and defensive arm.

Many agencies are working hand in hand to insure the triumph of that bloodless but most important struggle. All are doing their noble share of the work, toiling faithfully, patiently, unceasingly. Conspicuous among these are our Missionary Institutions which are teaching the young, rooting out prejudices, preparing the rank and file of the fighting forces, filling the souls of hundreds of young men and young women with an ardent love for Christ and an intense desire to fight under the Banner of the Cross.

The Lord is with us, and undoubtedly the ultimate result will be victory. Sooner or

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later the Word of God will triumph, and the Gospel of Liberty will spread its blessed influence over all our beautiful Province of Quebec. All the agencies which are working together will, like as many regiments, have their noble share of the palms of victory, but when the fighting is over and superstition has given place to Faith based on the Word of God, it will also be said that the war was won by the humble but earnest and faithful school teachers of our Missionary Institutions.

The Founding of the French Methodist Institute.

Our French Institute is the youngest Missionary Institution of its kind in the Province of Quebec.

Some sixty-five years ago the Baptists founded the Feller Institute at Grande Ligne. A few years later, the Presbyterians commenced educational work at Pointe-aux-Trembles and the Church of England at Sabrevois. It was under the Superintendency of the late Rev. John Borland that the Methodist Church of Canada understood the importance of educational work in connection with Missionary work, and in 1880 the French Methodist Institute was founded with the Rev. L. N. Beaudry as Principal.

It was at first but a boarding school for boys. The work began with limited accommodation. The basement of the church on

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Craig street was made to serve as class rooms as well as for recreation, while a small dwelling house adjoining the church was pressed into service as a place of residence for the pupils. The prospects were not bright, but the heart of the Rev. L. N. Beaudry was on fire with love for God. A burning desire for the salvation and enlightenment of his fellow countrymen helped him to make the new enterprise a success.

In 1885, the Montreal Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society opened a home for French girls on Elizabeth street, quite near the church. From the "Home" the girls attended the classes of the Institute. In 1886, accommodation being too limited, the girls' "Home" was transferred to Actonvale.

After the resignation and departure of the Rev. L. N. Beaudry in 1887, the Rev. E. M. Taylor, M.A., was placed in charge of the work, but after two years of most faithful and efficient service he resigned his position.

The New Building.

Impressed with the importance of the work and anticipating important developments, the Missionary Society and the Woman's Missionary Society then decided to unite their efforts. It was decided to erect a large building where boys and girls could be received under the same roof.

Preparing the Work

A large tract of land was secured in Westmount, and on the 22nd of October, 1888, the corner stone of the building was laid, and on the 22nd of October, 1889, the inaugural services were held in the presence of a large number of friends and of delegates attending the annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society in Montreal.

The Rev. Wm. Hall, M.A., was placed in charge of the school, a position he held until his death in 1895. After Mr. Hall's death the Rev. Dr. Hunter, Chairman of the District, was appointed Honorary Principal, with Mrs. Hall as Lady Principal. The following year, 1896, the Rev. J. Pine S.T.L., was placed in charge of the school, which position he resigned in 1901.

The Institute was then placed under the care of the present Principal, the Rev. Paul Villard, M.A., M.D.

The Institute—Its Equipment and Its Needs.

The school occupies a prominent position in Westmount, a western suburb of Montreal, on the rise of ground above the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railways. It commands an extensive view of the city, the St. Lawrence, the green hills of Vermont, and the Adirondack Mountains of western New York.

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It is a large solid brick building, composed of the main building and two wings, behind which is a ground for recreation purposes.

In the basement of the main building are found the kitchen and apartments of the servants; on the first floor, the Principal's apartments, teachers' parlor and pupils' reception room; on the second and third floors, the girls' rooms, and in the attic, the Infirmary.

In the basement of the South Wing is the school dining room, and on the first, second and third floors are the boys' rooms.

In the basement of the North Wing are the laundry, coal bins and furnaces; on the first floor, the recitation rooms; on the second floor, the chapel.

The school, unfortunately, has no gymnasium, being in this respect inferior to the Missionary schools of other denominations. We hope in the not distant future to be provided with a well-equipped gymnasium.

When the weather does not allow the pupils to take exercise in the play grounds, the girls have the use of the Chapel as a recreation room, but the boys have to content themselves with the use of the corridors in their own quarters.

A gymnasium for boys and girls stands as one of the most urgent needs of the Institute.

The school is said to accommodate one

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hundred students. As a matter of fact, cannot accommodate comfortably more than eighty or eighty-four. If more are accepted as was the case this year (the average number of pupils for October, November and December being ninety-eight), they have to be over-crowded, three pupils being placed in rooms intended for but two, or eight placed in dormitories built to accommodate no more than four or five.

In late years, thanks to the Missionary Board, various improvements have been added to the school. The old system of heating, which unfortunately had failed to give sufficient heat, was done away with, and a hot water plant installed. An infirmary has been fitted up under the large roof, and it rendered valuable service last year during an epidemic of measles. The school dining room has been made more capacious and comfortable, and last of all fire escapes have been built, and the dangers attending the ever-to-be dreaded conflagration in a boarding school have been reduced to a minimum.

The pupils' quarters, although very simple in their appearance, are comfortable, the older pupils being placed in rooms for two, the new ones in dormitories. The rooms are always kept in a good condition, are well lighted and ventilated, every convenience being found in connection with each floor.

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It can be said without exaggeration, that the school is, hygienically, as near perfection as a school can be.

Every part of the building is always kept clean and in order, the work being done chiefly by the pupils themselves.

The school management is striving in every way to make of the Institute a real Christian home.

"The buildings as they stand, creditable in appearance, suitable, and in good condition, are a very valuable asset of our Society. The school is full to overflowing. It will accommodate ninety boarders, and every room is occupied. There were ninety applications for admission that could not be entertained. Many of the pupils are from Roman Catholic families. The staff are competent and earnest. Prayers and study of the Bible and religion are regularly observed. The moral influence of the Institute is strong, and felt by the whole body of pupils. It is one of the best and most prosperous of church schools in Quebec. It is a growing institution, and ought to be enlarged to meet the requirements of the day. It may be expected to send out Protestant and Methodist ideas through all the Province of Quebec, and to supply the church in years to come with suitable men and women to carry on the work of this Society. We cannot withdraw from a work like this."

—Extract from "Our French Work," by Dr. Ryckman.

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The Institute Library.

A good school library is an important factor, especially in a missionary school. In many ways it is a valuable help for the teachers. The library of our French Institute is unfortunately very small, yet in late years it has been somewhat enlarged by many friends having sent useful and valuable books. Among the most important gifts, we can mention those given by Miss Griffin, of Toronto; the Rev. T. H. Wright formerly of Michel, B.C.; Dr. A. Sutherland; Mrs. Christmas, Mrs. Morton, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Nichol, of Montreal. The Woman's Missionary Society Auxiliaries of Gore Street, Hamilton; Brantford, Lucknow and Napanee also contributed to the increase of the F. M. I. library. The Thornton Auxiliary presented the school with a Standard Dictionary in two volumes and a large collection of books. Mr. Chas. Morton, of Montreal, gave one of the most valuable additions in presenting the school with an "Illustrated and Self-Explaining Bible," in four volumes. Conspicuous among all are the gifts donated periodically by a good old friend of the Institute, Mr. John Palmer, of Montreal. Besides a large collection of story and illustrated books he has given a "Chambers Encyclopedia," and has just presented the school with a new copy of "Ridpath's History of the World," in nine volumes. Mr. J. Wesley Palmer, his son, added to our

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library two bound volumes of the "Graphic" and an "Illustrated Gallery." Dr. J. Hutchison, of Westmount, gave the school a complete set of Dore's pictures.

Our reading rooms have always been well supplied with magazines and periodicals by Messrs. Chas. Morton, John Palmer and J. Gordon.

The school has to thank the "Daily Witness" for two copies of papers regularly supplied to the school; also the editors of the "Christian Guardian," "The Missionary Outlook" and "Onward" for free copies of these papers.

All these gifts have been gladly welcomed, but we have room for more bright and wholesome books for boys and girls.

We need French books especially. Unfortunately they are expensive in this country. With a little money given and collected by two good friends, Messrs. J. Palmer and Thos. Jordan, we have been able to buy a few. Friends of our work can do much to help us in this line. Are any ready to help in furnishing us with the books or the means to get them? If some say, "I will," let them not wait until the morrow, but let them act to-day.

Our reading rooms are supplied with three French Protestant papers: "L'Aurore," "Le Bon Berger," and "Le Rayon de Soliel."

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The Management and Teaching Staff

The French Institute is under the joint control of the Board of Missions and of the Woman's Missionary Society. Each year they appoint a Board of Directors, which has the oversight of the school.

The Board of Directors meets regularly at the Institute. Copies of the minutes of its meetings are forwarded to the General Secretary of Home Missions of The Methodist Society of the Methodist Church, and to the Secretary of the Woman's Missionary Society.

The Board of Directors controls the finances of the Institute. The Board is divided into committees, each committee having its part in the oversight and responsibility.

At every business meeting of the Board the Principal reports on the school and its management. Each month during the session the Principal directly reports to the General Secretary of the Board of Missions at Toronto.

The members of the staff are appointed by a committee, of which the Rev. Principal Shaw, of the Wesleyan Theological College, is convener.

The school is placed under the supervision of Principal Paul Villard, a graduate in Arts of the University of Paris, France, and a graduate in Medicine of Bishop's College, Montreal, being also a Licentiate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Province of Quebec. He is assisted by a group of hard-working Christian teach-

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Miss C. Crawford.



Miss I. Masten.



Miss C. A. Matheson.

Teachers in the French Methodist Institute.

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ers. With such a staff much can be done, and it is with bright prospects of continued success that our French Institute is carrying on its work.

Miss Isabel G. Masten, a graduate of McGill Normal School, is head of the Girls' Department. Miss Masten has been identified with the Institute for the last sixteen years and has rendered the school most valuable service. Her Christian influence upon the students has always been most elevating.

Associated with Miss Masten are Miss Inez Watson and Miss Annie C. Mathewson, both graduates of McGill Normal School. Miss Watson has been on the Institute staff for six years and she has won the well-deserved reputation of being a first-class teacher and a most devoted missionary. Miss Mathewson has taught during the last two sessions. She is a most capable teacher and is much appreciated by her co-workers, as well as by her pupils.

In charge of the Boys' Department is Mr. B. Lizotte, a graduate of Laval University. Mr. Lizotte has been during the last four years a member of the staff. He is a good disciplinarian and possesses the confidence of the students. Associated with Mr. Lizotte is Mr. E. Sonet, a former student of the Institute, who is well qualified for the position as he has already been of great service to the school in the capacity of assist-

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ant master during last session. Mr. G. Clark, who for the last five years was in charge of the Commercial Department, has resigned his position to enter the practice of medicine. He was a most successful teacher and an earnest missionary. His influence will long be remembered among the students, with whom he always was most popular.

The Domestic Department was for the last ten years under the charge of Mrs. R. Ross, who has now returned to her home in Halifax. Her faithful and earnest service always won for her the affection of her co-workers and of the students.

The teachers who have retired from the school staff in late years have left most pleasant memories. Dr. A. Rondeau, a graduate of McGill Normal School, is now practising medicine in Manitoba; the Rev. R. Elsesser is a French missionary at Pittsfield, Mass.; Mr. S. Casgrain is a Bible colporteur in the Province of Quebec, and the Rev. Alexander Mage, a graduate of the University of Geneva, Switzerland, is now pastor of the French Congregationalist Church at Lowell, Mass. These have gone, but the influence of their labor remains.

Old Students Recommend the Institute.

Our French Methodist Missions ought to be natural and regular feeders for the Institute. Unfortunately, for a good many years

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the supply from the missions has been rather limited. This is all the more to be regretted as the Institute could render most valuable help to the mission fields by sending back to them educated young men and women ready to be the best and most intelligent supporters and co-workers of the missionaries.

As it is, the great majority of the students find their way to the Institute through the recommendation of former pupils now scattered in different parts of the Province of Quebec. This fact has been and is still a source of pleasure and gratitude to the school authorities. It shows how former students appreciate the training and the benefits they have received from the Institute. They manifest their gratitude in sending new-comers to fill their places.

Yet it is but fair to acknowledge the valuable help given by the Montreal Centre, Montreal West and St. Jovite Missions in providing pupils for the school. Their pastors are always manifesting to the Institute their interest and their unfailing support.

Applicants who desire to be admitted to the Institute must be twelve years old and must be recommended. They have to fill an application form the translation of which is given below. This form, when filled up, is presented to the Admission Committee of the Board of Directors, who decide on the merits of the case.

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Application Form.

Name of Applicant.....
Address.....
Age.....
Birth-place.....
Nationality of parents.....
To which church does the applicant belong?
How much can he pay monthly?
Can the applicant read and write? and
what language?
When will the applicant be ready to enter
the school?
Name and address of person responsible for
the payment of boarding and tuition
fees.....

Courses of Study.

The course of study is a wide one. There are many who come to the Institute without being able to read or even sign their own name, and yet in the advanced classes some are prepared for entering McGill Normal School or taking matriculation examinations, whilst others leave the school ready to take a position as stenographer or bookkeeper.

The course of study is double, comprising an English course and a French course. The curriculum of the English course is the same as that of the schools under the Protestant Board of Education of the Province of Quebec, starting from the

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elementary divisions up to Grade II. Academy (Grade III. Academy being also taught if any of the students wish to take it up).

Of course, teaching is made harder to the Institute teachers by the fact that they have to teach in both French and English, also by there being but a small number to do the work accomplished in public schools by a larger number of teachers. Classes have to be doubled and the same teacher has to take the work of two or more grades.

The French course, taught by the same teachers, is divided into five classes, some of the classes having two divisions.

All the students have to follow the French course.

Manual training, as understood in public schools, has not been introduced in the Institute, on account of the heavy expense it would entail. Yet the pupils are taught to make good use of their brains and fingers. The knowledge thus acquired is put to practical use. The students have charge of the good order, care and cleanliness of the building, all having special work assigned to them. When possible the boys do minor repairs, thus getting some practice in carpentering, painting, etc.

The girls get a good course in house-keeping. They are taught cooking, ironing and plain sewing. Friday afternoon is set apart for the girls' manual work. They do the school ironing and their services are required

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for the mending of the boys' and their clothes.

A casual visit to the students' rooms reveals the general tone, order, cleanliness and discipline of the school.

Students paying a fixed minimum fee may take lessons on the piano if they desire. They have to pay an extra fee of one dollar a month for instruction, and two dollars a term for the use of a piano. Vocal training is given by the Principal and some of the teachers, as far as circumstances allow. Quartettes are occasionally formed among the students for the development of their musical talents.

In addition to the regular class drill, rhetorical exercises are held fortnightly, consisting of debates, recitations and compositions. These exercises are prepared under the direction of members of the staff.

There is no class work done on Saturday. The entire morning is occupied by the regular weekly cleaning. Saturday afternoon is a holiday. Pupils whose names have been placed on the roll of honor for conduct and who get permission to go out unattended provided their parents have signified in writing their willingness and approbation.

From time to time on Saturday nights the students are gathered in the Convocation Hall and enjoy a social hour, members of the faculty being always present.

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In the Laundry--Ironing Day.



Domestic Science--The Cooking Class.

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We have sometimes compared the Institute to a bee hive, with its hum of busy life, and if the term was applicable in the past, still more so is it at present, with over ninety young people within its walls. From 6.30 in the morning till 9.30 at night, house-work, classes, recreation and study keep up their steady routine, broken only by the ever-welcome summons to the dining-room, where amazing appetites attest the good health of our large family. An unusual number of old pupils returned to us this year, and the new-comers quickly fell into line, so that very satisfactory work began with the opening week.

The sewing and cooking classes have been organized again, and are as popular as ever. Each day two of the girls prepare one of the dinner courses, and their pride and interest in this work are keen.

The Commercial Department, organized since Dr. Villard became Principal, is also proving a practical success, as this year three of our girls who took the course have secured good positions in the city.

We have regular monthly examinations in the various classes, but at the end of December a review of the three months' work is given, and this year the results were unusually satisfactory.

March is looked upon in the Institute as the month of heaviest school work, for then

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we review the work of the year, and of the most lengthy and severe examinations are held. These papers are also submitted to outside examiners, so the pupils feel that they are undergoing a much greater ordeal than when writing on the regular monthly reviews for their teachers only.

The course of study for the session does not end in March, but as some of the pupils, more particularly those from the country, are obliged to return to their homes at that time, it has been found advisable to make the spring examination a test one.

The work this year extended from the most elementary grades to 2nd Grade Academy of the curriculum of the Protestant Board of Education. It is the intention of the school management to add, if possible, next session, 3rd Grade Academy, the most advanced grade of the superior schools of the Province of Quebec.

It is most gratifying to the school authorities to announce that we have been granted this year the privilege of conducting in the Institute, Government examinations.

The Uplifting Influence of the Institute.

The French Methodist Institute is second to none in the Province of Quebec for the quality of the work done and the results accomplished. Many owe a good social stand

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ing and an honored position to the education they received as students in the Institute. The old pupils recommend the Institute to their friends, but many desirable applications are rejected for lack of accommodation. The pupils, as a whole, form an unusually bright gathering, and the classes are most encouraging in the results already accomplished. Generally, new pupils, whose age varies from twelve to about twenty-one years, come to the school having hardly any instruction at all, many of them not even knowing their A B C. For such, a preparatory department has been provided. Religious teaching, the study of the Bible and Catechism, are given in both languages. Under the management of the lady superintendent the girls are taught plain sewing, cooking, and practical house-keeping.

The moral results accomplished are important. The raw material is transformed, minds are opened, and characters are being built and developed; girls and boys are being trained to become useful women and useful men. But the benefit of schools like the French Institute is apparent in the religious development of the boys and girls. The French-Canadians belong to a most bright and intelligent race. As they come under the influence of men and women of a lofty and pure Christian character, they soon become transformed, and show the bright side of their own personality.

Our French Institute is more than a

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boarding school. It is a home whose Christian influence is felt from morning until night in the atmosphere which pervades the school. It is a busy place, like a big hill where each individual member accomplishes diligently, earnestly and faithfully in a quiet but simple way, his or her particular task ; a place where all seems to be harmony, peace and happiness.

The aim of the school is to give each the pupils not only an insight into life which to many may prove a hard battle, but to make the education received of practical value in making their lives successful. The shaping of their character is the greatest incentive to the teacher for this difficult task. What is aimed at in the Institute is to make of each boy and girl a Christian in the true and only real sense of the word. The spiritual work of the school is the most important one, and the casual visitor has no real insight into what is done if he does not attend at least one of the Institute's religious meetings.

The religious meetings in the Institute constitute for the visitor a splendid opportunity to witness the importance of school of the type and character of our institution for French boys and girls. The pupils delight in taking a very active part in them. Protestants and Catholics join heartily in the singing, and do it with such an enthusiasm that it is a real blessing to hear them. Many

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have already given their hearts to the Lord and are working faithfully for the Master, trying to bring some of their comrades to a blessed knowledge of salvation. The last feature of interest has been the organization of a branch of the Epworth League. Boys and girls are very enthusiastic, and so far the new enterprise has been a decided success.

Our weekly prayer meetings are increasing in interest. Many of the pupils are taking part, and others remain for special prayer when after-meetings are held.

Two more religious meetings are held every week, one in the boys', the other in the girls' quarters. These meetings are conducted by the teachers in turn, and the pupils take an active part.

It is most satisfactory to observe that in nearly every case the daily life is in accord with the profession.

The Wednesday school prayer meeting is an evidence of the spiritual life of the Institute. In this weekly gathering of pupils and teachers, all feel the bond of Christian fellowship which unites them. Those who visit the Institute and have not the privilege of attending this service cannot realize its influence.

Visitors are always welcome at the Institute at any time of the day. Special invitation is given to the reader to attend any of the school's Wednesday prayer-meetings.

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Sunday at the Institute.

Sunday in the Institute is always a day of blessing. The Sabbath day is religiously observed. All noise ceases and a restraint is put upon the exuberance of ninety young lives. It is a difficult matter at the beginning of the session to put the youths from Roman Catholic families coming for the first time to the school under restraint this day. They are wont to consider Sunday not as the Lord's Day, but as a day of pleasure and recreation, and at times teachers must be on the alert to maintain order and perhaps stop a game of ball behind closed doors. But even our Roman Catholic pupils, and we have over thirty this session, soon learn to pay due respect to the day of the Lord. This influence goes beyond the school walls and is not lost with the departure of the students. It has been a means of transformation in many a home. In one instance in the home of one of our Roman Catholic boys, the parents used to play cards and drink heavily on Sunday. On his return from the school the boy remonstrated and told his people what he had been trained to do on Sunday at school. In time the faithful testimony of the boy bore fruit, card and whiskey were put aside, and were replaced by quiet talk, peaceful reading, the boy often taking his Bible and reading a few verses to his parents.

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Sunday in the Institute commences with prayer. Teachers and pupils assemble in the large dining-room, made so cheerful and comfortable this year, and begin the day standing and listening reverently to the reading of a portion of the Word of God, and to a fervent supplication for blessing during the day. At ten o'clock the bell rings, and we are ready to go and pay tribute to the Lord of all in one of our French churches. At three o'clock we gather in the chapel for Sunday School. What a blessing our Sunday School has been ! It has been a continual source of inspiration for noble and faithful work.

Yet it is hard to keep young boys and girls under restraint a whole day without compressing their minds and working in an opposite direction to the end we desire to attain. After Sunday School a few of the older pupils are allowed to take a little walk outside, whilst the younger are gathered by one of the teachers and spend a happy hour or so in singing French and English hymns. It is not possible to give a real estimate of the value of music in a house like our French Institute. Singing has always been considered one of our best helps. From the beginning of the session the pupils are taught to sing, and many trying hours have been transformed into hours of happiness by our singing. A friend of the school remarked the other day : " Listening

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to the pupils' singing does good ; you cannot help feeling they are in earnest." With a hymn learned in the Institute on their dying lips, three of our former pupils left for their heavenly home during the past few years.

At 7 p.m. the bell rings again, and the pupils attend an English service. As a rule, they enjoy this church service, as most of them understand English, for they are not long in the school before they can understand English and make themselves understood. One thing that does not fail to strike an onlooker is to see how correctly and reverently our students behave at church. They carry to the church the spirit of discipline and order under which they live in the school.

Every second Sunday the pupils gather in the school chapel and have a service of their own, which they enjoy very much.

The Institute Missionary Society Organized.

Following a visit from Dr. F. C. Stephenson, of Toronto, on November 3rd, and a talk he gave to the pupils on the subject of missions, a missionary society was organized in the school to study the work of our Church in China.

The Principal, addressing the students showed in a graphic way what has been accomplished in the world through the diffusion of the Gospel and the sending of mis-

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sionaries to the heathen. He also described the work of the Canadian Methodist Church, more particularly in the West, in China and in Japan. Several thrilling incidents were told. Closing his address the Principal referred to the hospital being built in Chentu and proposed to take a collection, the object being to contribute to the building funds. When the collection was counted it amounted to the sum of \$13.40.

The importance of such a collection will be better understood when it is known that most of the students of the Institute have hardly any money at their disposal during the whole term. Yet most of them gave their whole cheerfully. Enthusiasm ran high. At the close of the meeting, one of the young men with tears trickling down his face, said to one of the teachers: "I gave all I had. I wish I had more. I could have given myself."

A Union Missionary Meeting.

The boys and girls of the Institute had formed, respectively, Missionary Associations which met regularly every Saturday. These meetings, although placed under the indirect supervision of the staff, were entirely organized and conducted by the pupils themselves.

During the last week of March the last joint meeting of both associations took place under the presidency of Willie Chodat,

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Chairman of the Committee, having with him on the platform Dr. Villard, the Honorary President ; Georges Giroux, Vice-President, and Mesdemoiselles M. Fowkes and L. Rivard, President and Secretary of the Girls' Association.

The meeting opened with a favorite hymn among the pupils.

After the singing the President offered an earnest prayer, which was followed by another hymn.

The report of the Secretary, Lazarus Frett, was then read. It gave an insight into the way the meetings of the association had been conducted during the session, how everybody had willingly contributed to make of the association a success, and how much good had been accomplished by the association among the students.

The report was followed by a duet sung by two girls and by the reading of a portion of the Scriptures in Matthew 28.

Then Mr. W. Chodat, the President of the Association, delivered in French the following address :

Dear Friends,—

In the beginning of last century but a few pioneers were engaged in missionary work, scattered here and there in vast continents where the Word of the Lord was little known.

A large number of these faithful men lost their lives, dying at their posts of honor and

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duty. This might have been a cause of discouragement, yet their blood watered the seed they had sown. Many more took their empty places, and their work of blessing never at any time ceased. So was being accomplished the commandment of the Lord, "Go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Missionary work proved to be not only human work, but above all the fulfillment of Jesus' words.

And that is why we can admire the wonderful developments of the Christian ideas and their progress throughout the world. What a noble work it is to bring sinners to the foot of the Cross.

We have reason to thank God for what has been accomplished by all the courageous missionaries who, sustained by faith, have given and are still giving up country, family, friends, to carry the light of the Gospel to heathen lands.

Let us not forget that from our beloved country men and women are also going forth to increase the ranks of the blessed army doing missionary work. Let us not forget also that many who cannot give themselves to the work are giving their influence, their money and their time for that same cause, and that these men and women constitute the missionary societies which support this school which we all love

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so much and where we are prepared to fight the battle of life.

We cannot thank them better and show them our gratitude more than by being faithful in our daily work, living a Christian life, and what would be better still, placing ourselves in the hands of the Lord, to be also His missionaries.

Truly we will not all hear the call to be a foreign or home missionary, but all one day will be able to return to the Lord a little of what He has done for us. As we have been taught we can watch and pray and later on we will be able to do the third thing—give.

We can pray for those who have gone to the vast fields of missions; we can pray the Lord and ask Him to bless them and their work. We can also pray the Lord to keep us true and faithful, asking Him to show us the way to serve Him.

The Institute has been a blessing to all of us. We have received here material and spiritual blessings that we will never forget. When we have left the house that has been for us a "Home," let us not keep for ourselves the treasures we have received. Let us tell our parents, our friends, our neighbors of the joy and happiness we have found in serving the Lord Jesus. Then we also shall be missionaries, and in our turn will be a blessed means in the hand of the Lord to bring joy and happiness unto others.

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And when we are in a position to earn our own living, let us not grudge our money to the Lord. It is said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Let us find for ourselves the truth of it. Let us participate freely in helping the missionary cause, and let us do it with a glad and joyful heart.

And above all, let us not forget that the most gracious gift we can give to Jesus is our hearts. Let us consecrate ourselves entirely and fully to His service, remembering what Jesus said, "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" To conclude I will say:

Let us be loyal and true to our teachers.

Let us be loyal and true to the French Institute.

Let us be loyal and true to Jesus the Blessed Redeemer.

And may we feel His blessing throughout our life.

Following the address, M. L. Frett sang a solo.

After the singing, M. G. Giroux, the Vice-President, made a few remarks in French, closing with the following words:

"Every time we have met, I had joy in my soul in thinking that the Lord was so good to have given me an opportunity to do something for Him. My whole desire is to work for Jesus. He is the Lover of my soul. Let us work, let us watch, let us pray,

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and when we leave the Institute let us remember during all our life what the school has been for each one of us."

After the singing of a French hymn, the Secretary of the Association addressed the meeting in English, saying :

"It is hard for me to speak in English, yet I am glad to do it for the sake of Jesus. I was pleased this last fall when the pupils thought of organizing a Missionary Association. I was glad because it was not the teachers but the students themselves who first spoke of doing it. Each student ought to be a missionary, there is so much to do for Jesus. How many thousands yet have never heard about His blessed name. Truly we cannot all of us be a missionary in a distant land, but if we cannot go let us think of those who are there already. Let us help them with our prayers and, when we can, with our money. If we have but one cent let us give it cheerfully, the Lord will bless it. Yet if we cannot be foreign missionaries, we can be home missionaries. When we are away from the Institute we all love so much, let us take our Bible and read it to our parents, to our friends, to our neighbors.

"The Lord was with our association, and our work has not been a failure. The little amount of money we have collected week after week will be useful in the hands of the Lord."

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After a solo, "Trust and obey," by one of the girls, the members of the staff were given an opportunity to make a few remarks, and successively they spoke words of encouragement. Then Mr. Lizotte, the headmaster of the boys, said :

"Your Missionary Association has been doing good work. A good example has been given to the members. Strange to say, all the members have regularly had their name on the School Monthly Roll of Honor. It is encouraging to say that the members were loyal and faithful, all taking an active part in the meetings. After one of your regular meetings, one of the boys came to me and said, 'I do believe that if I am ever tempted to follow the wrong path in life, the memory of our missionary meetings will help me to keep on the right track.'

"To-day," added Mr. Lizotte, "I have received two letters from former pupils. One said : 'I regret so much having left the Institute so soon. I have no more occasion to sing and give my testimony.' The other said : 'I am now in another school, but everything is so different. I wish I could go back to the Institute.' "

And Mr. Lizotte concluded, saying : "Love your school. You have learned much, you owe the Institute a debt of gratitude. Be always faithful and true, and always live up to the testimonies you gave here in the school."

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A French hymn was then sung, an old favorite among the students.

The meeting was then thrown open and the members of the association were invited to speak. Eighteen of them, young men and young ladies, spoke words of thanks and praise, their remarks being interspersed with French and English hymns.

After the last one had spoken, the Treasurer placed in the hands of Dr. Villard the collection taken, \$1.40, saying :

"I am proud to hand you this. It is little, it is true, but it will help the great cause of missions."

Dr. Villard then rose and told the members of the association how proud of them he was. They had been in earnest. Their success was already a blessing of the Lord.

The meeting was then brought to a close with the singing of the hymn, "Count your blessings, name them one by one," followed by the first verse of the "Glory Song."

Missionary Influence on the Lives of the Students.

The missionary character of the Institute has been of late much emphasized and developed more deeply and systematically. The study of the Bible is one of the chief features of the work, and the religious awakening and development of the pupils is always the most important subject of prayer and study.

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Waiting for the Wednesday Evening Service to begin.



Our Institute Gymnasium. One boy at a time, while the rest of us look on.

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Every morning the pupils assemble at 9 o'clock for prayer. The religious opening exercises are led by the Principal or one of the teachers. They consist of the singing of a French hymn, the reading of a portion of the Scriptures, and prayer. The pupils then separate and attend their special Bible classes, which last half an hour every morning.

On Sunday the school attends a religious service at the West End French Church in the morning. At three p.m. all gather in the school chapel for Sunday School. All teachers, as well as several students, have charge of classes.

At 7 o'clock the pupils gather again in the chapel for a service of praise, presided over by the Principal, but every other Sunday the pupils worship at Douglas Methodist Church.

On Wednesday the school holds its own prayer meeting, which has proved to be one of the best means of blessing in the school. The meeting is led by Dr. Villard, but the teachers and pupils take an active part, sometimes forty or more of their number taking part in giving testimony or in prayer.

The pupils have formed two missionary societies, one for the boys, one for the girls. The officers of both societies are students. Any member may be called to lead the meeting of the day. A special feature of the mis-

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sionary societies this year was the interest manifested by the pupils toward missionary work in Japan and China. Their interest took a practical form ; besides giving about \$15.00 in collections in the Sunday School, they also collected \$15.00 more to help the missionary cause.

Reception of Students into the Church.

One of the most important days in the French Institute is reception day, that is, the day when the students who have made profession of serving God and have given proof of their fidelity are received into the membership of the Methodist Church.

Reception day was held this year on the 13th of February. On the platform with the Principal were the Rev. Melvin Taylor, Chairman of the District of Montreal, the Rev. E. DeGruchy, and the Rev. T. Halpenny.

After the singing of a few hymns in French and in English, and the reading of a portion of Scripture, the French pastors addressed the pupils briefly. Then the Chairman of the District took charge of the meeting and received into the fellowship of the Church twenty-three pupils, twelve boys and eleven girls. Of the boys, nine had come to the school as Roman Catholics.

Following the reception of members was a communion service in which over fifty of the

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teachers and students took part. The service of communion was followed by a short testimony meeting. Some forty of the pupils spoke of the influence of a personal Saviour on their daily life.

The service was most impressive. The seriousness of the communicants and the spirit of reverence of the whole school was a proof of the influence for good that is prevailing in the Institute.

The school this session numbered not less than forty-two church members among the students.

The spiritual work in the Institute was exceptionally good. The religious meetings, more especially the Wednesday prayer meetings, were attended by a continual revival of faith and work in the school. A Missionary Association formed by the students was a means of grace to many. Over sixty pupils professed conversion during the session, twenty-three were received as members of the Methodist Church, giving a total number of forty-two church members among the students. Although most of the pupils come from poor families, they were trained to pray, study and give. The students gave \$15.00 in Sunday School collections, \$13.40 for the Chentu Hospital Fund, and \$7.40 towards other purposes, a total of \$35.80.

Our closing exercises revealed more than ever the importance of our missionary

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schools in the work of evangelizing the Province of Quebec. Those who visited the Institute during the session were most enthusiastic over the work accomplished ; to many it was a revelation. Nowadays all eyes seem to be looking to the west ; we forget there is work to be done here. If the Province of Quebec is the key to the Dominion of Canada, we must keep in mind, as a well-known lady expressed it not long ago, that " The French have in their power a great influence in deciding whether the home of our grandchildren shall be Romanist or Protestant." Let us wake up to the fact and push the work in our midst by every means in our power. This we can say, the French Institute is doing its part noiselessly but faithfully, in the enlightenment and religious transformation of the Province of Quebec.

Social Life in the Institute.

Thanksgiving day made a pleasant little break in the month's work, as classes were suspended for the day, and in the evening a social and an impromptu concert were held in the chapel.

The evening of our Christmas concert was very stormy, but in spite of snow and wind a large number of friends came to show their interest and sympathy in our work.

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The hall was gay with bunting, festoons of green, and a very beautiful tree, which was lighted towards the close of the programme. Since the school has grown so large, however, we no longer attempt to give the pupils more than a bag of candy and an orange apiece.

The day following most of the young people left for their homes and ten days' rest from study.

Annual Concert.

Our annual concert, held in March, was pronounced a great success by the numerous visitors who crowded our Convocation Hall. The programme consisted of recitations, choruses, solos, and some very pretty calisthenic drills. The Principal's report was then read, brief addresses given by several of the clergymen present, and greetings extended to us by delegates from the Grande Ligne and Pointe-aux-Trembles mission schools.

At the close of the programme, Mrs. Ross, our lady superintendent, was called to the platform, and a resolution, passed by the Board of Directors upon hearing of her decision to resign her position, was read by Mr. Morton, Secretary of the Board. This resolution embodied the regret of the members of the Board and their deep appreciation of

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the valuable services rendered to the Institute by Mrs. Ross during the past ten years.

Two of the pupils then presented Mrs. Ross with an address and a handsome book, after which Dr. Villard spoke on behalf of the staff, and also made a presentation. Mrs. Ross replied briefly and feelingly, her remarks were received by the pupils with the shout of "What's the matter with Mrs. Ross?" and a deafening chorus of "She's all right."

As a great many former pupils were present, an hour was spent in social intercourse, after which all separated for an interval of two days' rest before beginning the work of the spring term.

Closing Entertainments by the Students.

That the past year has been the most successful in the history of the French Methodist Institute was stated by Rev. Dr. P. Villard, Principal of the school, at the exercises which were held recently to mark the closing of the winter term. At the beginning of the term 165 applications for admission to the school were received, but it had been possible to accept only ninety-eight of these, owing to lack of accommodation. The standing taken by the pupils in the examinations was most satisfactory, and the term had been remarkably free from sickness or trouble of any kind.

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The attendance at the entertainment was very large, among those present being a number of representatives of the local clergy, who occupied seats on the platform. The chairman, Rev. Dr. Williams, and others who spoke, heartily congratulated Rev. Principal Villard on the showing made by the pupils and on the work which he had accomplished during the year.

The programme included a number of brief addresses and the distribution of prizes interspersed with songs and recitations by the pupils. During the evening several French and English choruses were given by the pupils in a manner that reflected credit on their vocal trainer. The following took part : Misses Landry and Smith, piano duet; Mr. J. Williamson, recitation ; Miss Yvonne Villard, recitation ; Miss St. Germain, recitation ; Miss Rivard, song ; Mr. Chodat, recitation ; Miss Mathieu, recitation.

A number of the younger pupils, attired in the familiar Mother Goose costumes, gave a pretty little dialogue. The little ones spoke their lines with hardly a hitch, and were heartily applauded. The older girls gave a novel scarf drill with the school colors, purple and white, in which the various poses were very effective.

Brief addresses were made by Rev. Dr. Shaw, Principal of the Wesleyan Theological College ; Rev. Dr. Amaron, representing

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the Pointe-aux-Trembles Institute ; Rev. Mr. Therrien, representing the Feller Institute at Grande Ligne ; Rev. Mr. Rivard, Rev. Dr. Young, Rev. Mr. Mavety, Rev. Mr. De-Gruchy, Rev. T. W. Halpenny, Rev. A. Mage, Rev. R. T. Duclos, Rev. Mr. Runnels and Mr. Chas. Morton.

The session that closed on the last day of May was in many respects the best in the history of the Institute since its foundation twenty-six years ago.

The Institute was full to overflowing with an exceptional attendance of ninety-eight pupils living at the same time under the roof of the Institute. The average attendance for the whole winter term was ninety-three, nearly double the attendance six years ago.

Never had the school a brighter and more intelligent gathering of boys and girls, of young men and young women. The work done during the session was a credit to pupils and teachers and the final examinations revealed a marked progress in all the different classes. The examination papers of advanced grades were examined by Miss Derrick, M.A., and Professor Morin, M.A., both of McGill University, and by Professor Kneeland, M.A., Ph.D., of McGill Normal School. All expressed in most complimentary terms to pupils and teachers their appreciation of the work done. Professor Kneeland reported as follows :

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Montreal, March 28th, 1906.

Dear Dr. Villard,—It is a pleasure for me to be able to testify to the excellent character of the work in English of those pupils who took the examination in "Selections from Tennyson" and "The Vicar of Wakefield." Indeed, in some papers, the minute and exact knowledge manifest was remarkable, while in all were seen evidences of painstaking and thorough instruction. I am, dear sir,

Yours sincerely,

A. W. KNEELAND.

(Professor Kneeland, of McGill Normal School, has been acting as one of the Institute sessional examiners for several years.)

Life in the Institute—as the Students See It.

Some time ago the pupils of the French Institute who can write in English were asked to give a description of life at the Institute, either in the form of a letter or composition.

One written by a boy who came from France but a few months ago, a Roman Catholic, and who was received into church membership in February, was of more than usual interest. Miss Masten has very thoughtfully passed it on to the "Missionary Outlook" for our encouragement.

Could there be more convincing proof of

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the value of the education and Christian training given at the Institute than the testimony of this pupil? The letter reads :

" My Dear Friend,—You were curious, you said in your last letter, to know which kind of life I lead in the French Institute. It is with a great pleasure that I am just trying to satisfy your curiosity.

" Know at first, you, who are not very much acquainted about the things of religion, that the Institute in which I have already spent four months is Protestant and, moreover, missionary ; therefore during the first days that I spent in the school, I must confess that I was somewhat surprised by the religious meetings of the pupils.

" You know as well as I do, that till now religious thoughts did never trouble my brain very much, and though I was never an atheist, I used to live in the same manner. Catholic by birth and not with my heart, I left the Roman Church from the day when I understood that it was neither more nor less than a question of money.

" Yet I must confess that, under the influence of the Institute, my ideas concerning religion have undergone a sensible change.

" I was struck very much on my arrival to the Institute by the good harmony that reigns among the Principal, the teachers and pupils, and little by little, I became quite accustomed with all this religious meetings in which the best moral is taught to the

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pupils, and (essential point) is practised by those who teach it.

"But forgive me this digression. I have not the intention to talk about theology, I am too much ignorant on this subject; let me speak now about my daily occupations.

"Just as the hand of the clock points half-past six in the morning the harsh sound of the bell reminds me that I belong to this world and that I must have my face washed, my hair combed and be dressed within fifteen minutes under penalty of punishment, as you see we observe a military exactness, so ten minutes after my waking up I am ready and disposed to bring down all the difficulties of the science (sic).

"After an hour of study I am supposed to know my lesson; a second ringing, a little bit softer than the first, calls us for breakfast. Indeed, our repast does not resemble Balthazar's, but is wholesome and comfortable, so never in my life was my health better than now.

"After breakfast it is time to fix our bed, sweep and arrange our rooms. I partake this work with my room-mate, an Indian. His forefathers were Iroquois, and though he has kept up their sharp eyes and their baked apple complexion, he is not so belligerous (warlike); in fact, he is the most amiable boy I ever saw.

"At half-past eight it is time to go into our class-room. My teacher is a young

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Scotch lady, and luckily for me she does not like to punish big boys, for I am still the same wicked pupil as formerly.

"During this time we use to recite our lessons, to do a dictation, and our teacher gives us some explanations of grammar. At half-past ten we have ten minutes of recreation, and we continue our work with the study of the French language.

"Mr. V., our Principal, gave me the charge of some pupils. I do my best to fulfil this task. (He teaches a junior French class.)

"At twelve it is time to dine, a duty that every pupil likes very much. After dinner most of the pupils use to skate, a sport unknown on our sunny Mediterranean shores, but which is the greatest pleasure of the Canadian youth.

"Again the bell announces the end of the play and we enter our respective classrooms. History of Canada, geography, arithmetic and geometry, such are subjects that we learn during the afternoon; at half-past three the time of the class is up and we are free till five. Two times a week we take a little walk about the west of the town, and on the other days we take our enjoyment in the yard of the school.

"From five to six we make our tasks and at six we have our supper. We have half an hour to digest our repast, and afterwards we return to our studies till nine, the hour

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of rest. Sometimes the big boys are allowed to be up till ten.

"On Saturday all the pupils whose conduct is good are allowed to go out till five in the evening.

"On Sunday every pupil observes silence, the more restless are quiet on this day. In the morning we go to the French church and in the evening all the pupils are assembled in the chapel. Sometimes we are permitted to go to one of the great Methodist churches.

"Such is, in a few words, my life in the Institute. I am not sorry at all to be retired for some months from the noises of the world, and I hope that my passage to the French Methodist Institute will be profitable to me in every point of view."

The following composition was written by a little girl in the Junior Department :

"This school is very nice. It is full of fun and pleasure. Now I will tell you about it. At half-past six in the morning the bell rings for us to get up. We get up and we have study until half-past seven, there is half an hour to get dressed. Then at half-past seven there is a little bell rings for the big girls to go down and set the tables. When they are all done they ring a second bell and then we take our books and put them in our rooms. Then we form in line and go down to breakfast. After breakfast

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we do our work and then we get ready for class. There is a first bell rings that means to get ready, and then there is another bell rings that means for us to form in line and go down to class. We begin class at nine o'clock. Before we begin class we sing a French hymn and then we have prayers. And then we go in our classes. The morning classes close at twelve o'clock. Then we form in line and go upstairs to our rooms and get ready for dinner. When the bell rings we go down to dinner. After dinner the big girls do the dishes, the other girls go and play. At half-past one we go into class until three o'clock. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the girls go out for their walk. When we do not go for a walk we go in the yard and skate. We have a large skating rink. The boys go for their walks on Mondays and Fridays. If it is raining, we go in the chapel, where we have lots of fun. Then at five o'clock we have study until six o'clock. Then the table bell rings and once more to set the tables, and when they are finished they ring the bell and we go down for supper. After supper we do our work, and at seven o'clock we have study until nine o'clock. We have prayers and then all the little girls go to bed, and the big girls stay up until ten o'clock. Except on Saturday night, we have a concert. We all go in the chapel and play games together. And on Wednesday night we have prayer meeting.

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On Sunday morning we go to Rev. Mr. Halpenny's church. At night we go to Douglas, every second night. We had a nice Christmas concert in the chapel. We will soon have another one in March. When we are on the roll of honor for conduct and work we can go out on Saturday. If we are on only for work we go out on Monday. We go home too, and we come back for five o'clock study. Mr. Villard is very kind to us. On Sunday after dinner we have one hour to study our Sunday School lessons. Near the end of May we go up in the mountain and have lots of fun. When we go we pick flowers and run all about. I like to pick flowers and play in the grass.

Some Interesting Facts.

Since the opening of school, several good friends of the Institute have paid us flying visits. Mr. and Mrs. Huestis, of Halifax; Mrs. Williams, Band Corresponding Secretary of New Brunswick, and very lately Dr. Stephenson, who kindly gave us a half-hour from one of his busy days in the city. All our visitors exclaim: "What a crowd you have, and what bright-looking faces!"

We feel very deeply our great need of the Heavenly Father's guidance in dealing with these young hearts and minds committed to our care.

Early in the month we had an interesting visit from Bishop Fowler, of New York, ac-

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accompanied by Dr. and Mrs. Benson. Both men spoke briefly to the pupils, and their earnest words made a deep impression on the older ones.

Last session gathered the largest attendance in the history of the Institute.

One hundred and six pupils enjoyed the privileges of the Institute during the session.

November had the largest attendance with a daily average of ninety-eight pupils. October and December followed with ninety-seven, January with ninety-three, February with eighty-eight, March with eighty-five.

The average attendance at the end of the winter term was ninety-three.

Twenty-three students, twelve boys and eleven girls, joined the Methodist Church during the session.

The school numbered forty-two church members among the students during the month of February.

Seventy-eight pupils have become church members during the last five years of the school's history.

(Unfortunately most of these have returned to their homes, where no Methodist church exists. Some have joined missions of other denominations, but in many cases where no Protestant communities are established, they have been isolated and in some cases away from religious influence. This

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shows clearly the importance of multiplying our missionary fields in this province.)

At one of the prayer meetings in January forty-two pupils took an active part in prayer and testimony.

The students founded a Missionary Association, with officers chosen among themselves. The Association met regularly and was a blessing to the whole school.

Over sixty pupils professed to be converted last session.

Two of the students taught a class in the Institute Sunday School.

The singing of the pupils in a meeting is a blessing in itself.

All the members of the staff but one are members of the Methodist Church.

A day spent in the Institute is enough to convince any one of the important part played by the French Institute in evangelistic work.

The three male teachers (French), all of them members of the Methodist Church, were in former sessions registered as students of the Institute.

Dr. Ryckman, in his report to the Missionary Board, said: "At the present time by far the most encouraging and hopeful branch of our work among the French is the educational."

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The Work Successful.

During the twenty-five years of the history of the Institute, quite a large number of boys and girls, young men and young women have been brought under its influence. Were it possible to furnish the history of each student who has attended its classes the reader would be supplied with most interesting matter indeed. From 15 to 20 young men at least have entered the Christian ministry in Canada or the United States ; many others have joined the medical or other professions ; a large number have become school teachers, while others have given themselves to business pursuits, some occupying more or less prominent positions in commerce.

Viewed from the religious standpoint, the French Methodist Institute has been a success.

Many who entered with minds full of prejudice and superstition have been so influenced by the Gospel of Christ that their eyes have been opened, and they have renounced Romish errors to accept pure Gospel truth. Not a few have experienced the saving grace of God in their hearts, and after having displayed the graces of Christian character during life, have proved the sufficiency of the Christian religion to sustain in death. Some six years ago one of our former pupils, living some hundreds of miles away, died of consumption. During his last days he was

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greatly comforted by the hymns he had learned at the French Institute. Within the past few years, three of the pupils of recent years have gone to "the better land" rejoicing in the consciousness of present salvation, and filled with the hope of the glory to come. Various other instances might be given to show that the work of the Institute has not been "in vain in the Lord." In spite of difficulties and opposing forces, it has been enabled to accomplish good work for God, much of which doubtless eternity alone will reveal.

Encouragement—Former Students Now in the Ministry.

Four years ago one of the teachers left the school to accept the position of assistant secretary of the French branch of the New York Y.M.C.A. The life in the Institute, with its opportunities for Christian work, fitted him for his new position. Three years ago the same young man entered the ministry, and is now a missionary among the French-Canadians in Pittsfield, Mass. He is the man who not long ago wrote to Dr. Villard: "My stay in the Institute has a marked and blessed place in my life. It was especially there that my faith was strengthened. The time spent with you, although of short duration, has exercised a great influence on my whole future."

Another member of the staff left the Institute last session to accept the pastorate of

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the French Congregational Church at Lowell, Mass.

After having studied theology four years in a Roman Catholic seminary, with the intention of entering the priesthood, Mr. L. entered the Institute. He was converted during his first year in the school, and he has now entered the ranks of the Canadian Methodist ministry as a probationer of the District of Montreal.

A young Indian, a student of the Institute, was also received as a probationer at the last meeting of the Montreal District. He intends to be a missionary among his own people.

A former pupil of the school was also admitted as a probationer of the Methodist Church at the last Conference.

The pastor of the Caughnawaga Mission is a former student of the Institute. So is the mission school teacher.

Principal H. B. of S—— College was for two sessions a student in our French Institute. He was converted in the school, and there passed his examination to enter the ministry.

It is estimated that over twenty students of the Institute have entered the ranks of the Christian ministry.

During the temporary absence of the missionary of St. J—— last summer, a student of the Institute residing on the mission presided at the Sunday services.

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Another student of Roman Catholic parentage still on the register of the Institute, who was converted there two years ago, wrote to the Principal: "My desire is to become a missionary." His family has joined one of our Methodist missions in the country.

Four ordained ministers, former students of the Institute, are found stationed in the Districts of Montreal, Waterloo, and Matilda.

The Rev. W. H. Desmarais, who was drowned at St. Philippe de Chester a few years ago, had been one of the most promising students of the Institute.

Three ordained ministers in the Church of England in this Province are former pupils of our institution.

Before leaving the school at the close of the session, one of the French young men came for a little talk with the Principal in his office. With tears in his eyes the young man said: "Doctor, I have decided to be a missionary, pray for me." The Doctor will do it, and may the Lord bless the boy's determination. The young man was converted in the Institute two years ago and is a member of the Methodist Church.

The following conversation took place lately between the Rev. X. and Dr. Villard, in the latter's office: "I was surprised, Mr. X., to find your name in the students' register of the Institute. I had no idea that the school was your Alma Mater." "Yes," said

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the Rev. Mr. X., "I spent two years in the Institute. I came there as a Roman Catholic, or rather without any religion. Two years in the Institute transformed all my ideas and my life. I was converted and entered the ministry. The memory of these two years has always been a blessing in my life."

The following letter was written by a former student of the Institute, well known in our Canadian Methodist ministry :

As a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ I very largely owe to the French Methodist Institute what I am.

My home having been in that part of the Quebec Province where a Protestant school was at least four miles away, my parents sent me to the Institute in the year 1889 and again in 1890. The influences that were thrown around me then had much to do in leading me into the Christian ministry. The late Rev. Hall was then Principal. His kindness and Christian courtesy were potent factors in moulding the character of the young life of the Institute in those years.

To Miss I. G. Masten, also, I, with many others, owe a debt of gratitude. The Methodist Institute owes much to her as a teacher of the highest order, and a lady of Christian refinement.

Under the present management, with Dr. Villard at its head, the French Methodist Institute ought to accomplish the purpose

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for which it stands. I regard it as one of the best investments of our Missionary Society.

I very much regret that the Institute has in later years been compelled to close its doors to all but children of French parentage. Had that regulation been in force in 1889 and 1890 I would have been, I think, a life-long loser.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. RUNNELS.

Some Pupils and Their After-School Life.

Miss L. M.— left the Institute three years ago to take a training course at the J.'s Hospital. After graduation next fall she intends to offer her services to the Woman's Missionary Society and enter, if accepted, the Deaconess Home in Toronto.

A Bible sold in the country and explained to the purchaser by one of the Institute's former students doing colporteur work, was the foundation on which was built our now most active and prosperous mission.

A Roman Catholic girl of Sh—, after spending two sessions in the Institute, recommended the school to two Roman Catholic young men. Both entered the Institute, were converted, and are now members of the Methodist Church.

Another Roman Catholic, going home, praised the school in a Roman Catholic family. As a result of her conversa-

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tion three of the children were sent to the Institute. So much pleased were the parents with the mental and moral progress manifest in their children that they spoke of the Institute to their neighbors. Boycotted in the village on account of the children attending a Protestant school, they had to leave the place and come to the city. Now the whole family, father, mother, the two girls and the boy are members in good standing of a Protestant church. The boy is still on the register of the Institute as a student.

Two students of later years are on the register of Queen's University, Kingston, as medical students.

The following fact was related to Dr. Villard by the head of a large business firm of the city, a member of the Methodist Church :

" A Roman Catholic girl in the employ of Mr. X—," the business man said, " went to his office and reported to him that he was in some ways cheated by some of her own people." " Why did you report this to me ?" asked the employer. " Because," answered the girl, " in the school where I attended last year I learned how to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong." " And what is the name of that school ?" asked the man. " The French Methodist Institute," replied the girl.

" Bring your pupils to my church as often

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as you can," said the Rev. Mr. S. to the Principal. "When they come they are always an inspiration to me."

From his pulpit the Rev. Mr. D. told the the following story: "Some years ago young B., one of the Institute boys, promised to give our church one dollar towards the missionary funds. B. left the school and I had forgotten him entirely during these years, when the other day I received the following letter: 'Dear Sir,—Some years ago, when I was a pupil in the French Institute, I promised to give you one dollar for Missions. Many times I tried to fulfil the promise I had given, but my wages were so small that I could not. Being now in better circumstances, I am glad to forward the promised dollar.—B.'"

In a large gathering of young people a minister said to another: "I wonder which school that is over there. They all seem so quiet and orderly. You can spot them among all the rest. Do you know the name of the school?" "Yes, I do," answered the second man, "it is our French Institute."

What the Fathers of the Students Have Said.

"Yes, I shall never forget what good influence the Institute had on my boy. And, by the way, let me tell you that I have remembered the Institute in the making of my will, and will leave to the school some of

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the residue of what I possess. Meanwhile I want to do something for the institution. After discussing that idea with my boy, I have come to the conclusion to give the school every year during my life a sum of fifty dollars, to be spent in giving the pupils model hygienic breakfasts. These meals to be prepared according to directions of which I will furnish the detail in writing."

That part of a conversation was held in B. during the second week of June, this year, in the parlor of Dr. W., a retired physician, whose son attended a few sessions at the Institute. Let us say that Dr. W. has already manifested his appreciation in many practical ways. During a whole term he paid part of the tuition fees of a poor but worthy French-Canadian boy. Three years ago, in answer to a request in the Institute Annual Report, he presented the school with a brand-new Hammond typewriting machine.

In the name of the French Institute the Principal, to whom the above words were spoken, thanked deeply and heartily Dr. W. for his kind remembrance of the school.

Let us assure our good friend, Dr. W., that we wish him a long life. May his life be peaceful and happy. May the Lord bless him abundantly in his good work.

Three years ago the father of one of the

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students wrote to the Principal: "The Institute has been the salvation of my boy."

Last session a Roman Catholic man, whose boy was attending the Institute, was urged to withdraw his child from the school. "No," he said, "my boy has improved too much in every way to take him away. There he is and there he will stay." Another Roman Catholic father came to the Principal in January last and said: "It is strange how my boy likes your school. Our parish priest wanted him to leave and offered to place him in a Roman Catholic college, and to pay part of his expenses. My boy firmly rejected the offer."

A Roman Catholic man, whose two children were at the Institute last session, applied again to have his boy admitted as a pupil next fall. "Are you not afraid that your Roman Catholic friends will turn their backs on you?" he was asked. "Never mind my friends," did he reply, "all I know is that my children have been well taken care of, materially, morally, and spiritually. My boy has so much changed for good and is so considerate to me that my neighbors themselves are giving testimony of the good accomplished in your school."

"Principal," said a father, a few weeks ago, "I will never forget what the Institute has done for my boy."

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What Ministers Have Said.

Montreal, Aug. 16th, 1906.

Dear Mr. Villard,—The French Methodist Institute is indispensable in our missionary work. I have been in relation with the institution for many years and have myself recommended some forty applicants. Useless to say that those who attended the Institute were more than satisfied, and some of them are already beginning to push their way in the world. A young relative during his stay in the Institute prepared for his matriculation examinations which he successfully passed at McGill University this spring.

Yours, etc.,

A. DELPORTE,

Pastor Craig Street Church, Montreal.
(Translated.)

Principal Villard, M.D., Westmount, P.Q.:

My Dear Sir,—If you knew what our missionary work among the French-Canadians in the United States owes to our missionary institutions of Canada, you would then understand the interest and the joy with which we follow your march forward. I wish I could hear soon that the French Methodist Institute, in which I have seen so much good take place, is being enlarged to enable you to answer favorably all the applications you receive every year.

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Suppress our missionary schools or reduce their sacred influence, and at the same time you will hurt the work, so hard and so difficult, of our missions. The educational part of our missionary work is the most precious auxiliary of the missionary. I say more, it is the pioneer that we would have to create if it was not already existing. Through our schools thousands of French-Canadians have come into contact with the Gospel and have learned to appreciate our Protestantism.

I have talked extensively with former pupils of our institutions. I have not yet met one who would have given a contrary opinion to what I have said above. The French Institute constitutes one of the best means for evangelization at the disposal of the Canadian Methodist Church. Undoubtedly the result will be far-reaching and your work, that seems so discouraging at times, may prove one of the factors that will ultimately bring the triumph of divine truth in the Province of Quebec.

I am yours, etc.,

A. M.,

Pastor at L., Mass.

May 15, 1906.

St. J—, 28th of June, 1906.

My Dear Mr. Villard,—In July, 1903, a French-Canadian family of the name of G. left the Church of Rome to unite with our mission.

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Among the members of the family two young men, G. and A., soon expressed their wish to get a little education, and consequently they were sent to the Institute. But the two young men in leaving the Church of Rome had kept their bad habits—vulgar and profane language, use of tobacco and strong drinks, etc. In their hearts they were unconverted.

To-day, after two sessions spent in the Institute, these two young men are all but unrecognizable ; they are now sincere Christians, serious, active, sober, with but the only passion of following their Saviour earnestly. Moreover, one of them intends to consecrate his life to the service of his Master and is studying especially to become a candidate for our ministry.

It was in my heart, my dear Mr. Villard, to let you know these things and to express once more my conviction that the good accomplished by the Institute is immense. The day will surely come when our missionary work will be better understood and more appreciated. In the expectation of that day let us continue to work with zeal in our different spheres. Let us plant and water and the Lord will look after the harvest.

Believe me, yours sincerely,

JULES DANTHENY.

(In charge of the St. J. Mission.)

(Translated.)



"Now I lay me down to sleep."



An Everyday Job—Peeling Potatoes.

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What Visitors Have Said.

" I had very great pleasure in visiting the Institute this afternoon. I visited every class and addressed the pupils briefly. Then the Principal called all into one room, where we had a general address and some delightful singing. I admired the order, prompt obedience and general management of the institution. Mr. Villard and his associates are to be congratulated on the character of the school and the success attending their labors. (Signed) Th. G.

" October 29th, 1901."

" We have this day visited the Institute and have very great pleasure in reporting how very much pleased we are with the appearance of all the departments of work and order and comfort of the entire establishment. We are much pleased with the thorough supervision prevailing in each department and are delighted with the spirit of contentment and harmony prevailing among the entire staff, and the homelike air of the whole establishment. We took supper in the large dining-room in company with the Principal and teaching staff and all the scholars, and can say that we can put it down as a red-letter day in our experience.

" (Signed) Th. J. and J. P.

" January 28th, 1902."

" The undersigned visited the Institute on the evening of February 21st, and the differ-

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ent departments with the Principal Saturday afternoon, February 22nd. Was delighted with conditions as generally seen. Found pupils interested in their different departments and of a class that indicated very considerable intelligence that gave promise of splendid results for the future. Order throughout was very much in evidence. The Principal and staff are to be congratulated on their splendid management.

" (Signed) C. C. H.

" February 22nd, 1902."

" I have gone all over the Institute and every room is in good order, nothing to which any exception can be taken. I believe this school, under the present management, is doing first-class work, and results must ultimately justify the Missionary Society in its expenditure of the money necessary to its support.

" (Signed) (Rev.) J. H.

" December 4th, 1902."

" I visited the Institute to-day and examined all the sleeping rooms and found them in very good order, not only clean but some taste being cultivated in the arrangement of the articles on the toilet tables.

" (Signed) C. M.

" October 27th, 1903."

" I visited the Institute to-day and found the whole building in good order and clean,

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and much more taste shown in the boys' rooms than ever before.

" (Signed) (Mrs.) H. I. N.
" November 9th, 1903."

" The crowded condition of the Institute is illustrated in dormitories having six or eight beds where there should be only four or five.

" (Signed) (Rev.) W. I. S.
" December 14th, 1903."

" I was pleased to go about the Institute to-day, accompanied by Principal Villard. Everything was in good order, neat and clean.

" (Signed) (Rev.) E. D. G.
" November 11th, 1904."

" Delighted with the improvements, and I found everything in very good order.

" (Signed) (Mrs.) L. W. Ross.
" December 20th, 1904."

" Mrs. H. and myself are pleased to have had the opportunity of visiting the Institute. We, of course, have heard much of the prosperity of the school, and from personal observation can bear testimony to the good order and every indication of continued prosperity.

" (Signed) (Rev.) S. F. H.
" October 24th, 1905."

" Have just heard the hearty singing and

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received the hearty welcome and Godspeed of students and staff. It has been an inspiration. It will help me in my work and prayer. Shall do all in my power to help enlarge this institution.

" (Signed) F. C. S.

" November 3rd, 1905."

" I have had to-day the pleasure of visiting for the first time the Institute, and have been more than delighted with what I have seen. The singing of the pupils has been very fine, and the evidence of the good work done in every department satisfactory. The management is to be congratulated on the success of their work. Dr. Villard and his efficient staff are entitled to hearty and general support.

"(Signed) (Rev.) W. R. Y.

" March 5th, 1906."

What the Press Has Stated

Extract from " L'Aurore," the French Protestant organ in the Province of Quebec :

" August the 3rd, 1906.

" The French Methodist Institute of Montreal had a most encouraging success at the June examinations of the superior schools of the Province. Three of the students passed successfully the examinations of the First Grade Academy. (Preliminary matriculation examinations and entrance to McGill Normal School.) A fourth one also

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passed the examination of the Second Grade Academy. The certificate of that grade entitles the holder either to enter the Normal School or to be accepted as a teacher in the public schools of the Province."

A gentleman well known in educational circles, after attending the annual Christmas tree at the Institute, wrote the following to one of the church periodicals :

The annual Christmas tree and soiree of the Institute was held on Tuesday evening, the hall being well filled by the pupils and their friends. A splendid programme of songs and recitations was presented, and a beautiful tree added brightness to the scene, which was one long to be remembered. The singing was most enthusiastic and hearty, without any of that self-consciousness that so often closes the mouths of our English boys and girls of the same age as the Institute pupils. The Principal's report showed a most satisfactory state of affairs ; and one could not but heartily congratulate the school authorities on the marked prosperity and success of the work of this school. Probably no branch of our French work is doing as much to-day for the evangelization and upbuilding of our French-Canadian youth as the French Institute in Montreal. The Institute well merits the confidence and unstinted support of our church, and never has it been more prosperous than at the present time.

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An important feature of the work is the interest taken by the staff in the welfare of former pupils. The influence of the school does not end with the departure of the students. If they live or work in the city they are invited to attend the religious services in the Institute, and from time to time they are invited to partake of a meal in the school. If they live in the country teachers correspond with them.

What the Students Have Said.

Here are a few extracts of letters sent to the Principal by former pupils :

St. F—, March 4th, 1905.

Dear Mr. Villard :

I have received your good letter. It is always a great pleasure and an encouragement for me when I hear of the Institute. I could never forget you all, because through your influence my heart has been transformed. I will never forget the evening of February the 23rd of last year, when I gave my heart to the Lord. No, I will never forget the moment when I stood before the Lord asking forgiveness of my sins. I was trembling and agitated, but I felt His presence in my heart. Since that day I have been with Him. Joy has been and is still my lot. I asked His peace, He gave it to me fully. My determination is to never forsake Him. In Him will I trust fully. My desire is to become a missionary. It was a great

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trial not to be able to go back to school this year, but with the help of God I will return next year. If possible we will go—
four of us.

GEORGE G.

O—, May 4th, 1903.

I am home safe and sound and was greatly welcomed. I am at work as hard as ever and find it quite a change after being quiet in school for four months. . . . I am going to tell you more of my good old Institute. I have found a great benefit out of it. This I can say, I was greatly satisfied, and not only myself but also my parents, and if Providence spares me you will see me there again.

L. F.

March 30th, 1903.

With pleasure I take my pen to express my thankfulness toward the school for all I got when in the Institute this winter. This is a period of my life I will never forget, and I realize now how my teachers devoted themselves in trying to educate me.

F. G.

M—, Jan. 3rd, 1906.

I would like to thank you for your past kindness during my college life. I have now a business of my own and am doing well. I believe my success is due to the good advice you always gave us of living a good and honest life.

J. N.

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St. T—, April 15th, 1904.

Useless to tell you what pleasure I had to receive your letter, especially to see how much interest you take in me. It was for me a precious encouragement. I thank you for it. I am well decided to go back to the Institute next winter.

A. P.

T—, Near R—, Sept. 7, 1904.

With much pleasure I write these few lines. Let me tell you that the Institute is well known here at R—, and in the neighborhood. I hope next session will be as much blessed as the last. I would like to do something for the school. We soon forget what we hear in a sermon, but I do not believe the pupils will ever forget what they have heard and seen in the Institute.

P. R.

St. Th—, May 17th, 1906.

Your welcome letter came yesterday. I was glad to hear from you. I always rejoice when I get news of the Institute and I have reason for it, because it is there that I have learned how to love the Lord and serve Him. The memory of the Institute is precious to me. Like a well-cultivated vine it brings forth fruit. It was impossible for me to go to the Institute last session, and I do not think it will be possible to go next fall, but as soon as I can, there you will see me again. In the meanwhile I will do my

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best to send some of my friends to the school that they may profit by the same advantages I had and get some good. All my people at home want me to remember them to you and send their best greetings.

A. P.

H—, May 26th, 1906.

I was glad to get your letter and read all your encouraging words. I rejoice because all the things I have learned in the Institute have left a souvenir that will never disappear from my memory. I bless the Lord because I have found in the Institute the salvation of my soul. I have a just cause for praising the Lord.

My two sisters, my brother and myself are forming—the whole four of us—a little choir for the mission. Since we left the school we have been singing every Sunday in our little church some of the French hymns we learned in the Institute.

G. G.

J— H— Hospital,

Q—, June 6th, 1906.

Dear Sir,—Received your very welcome letter some time ago. I am still at the hospital, and have six months yet of my course to finish my term. Just what I will do when I finish I have not decided yet, but I think I will go to Toronto to the Deaconess Home to take a course there next year. I may have to do a little private

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nursing before I am able to enter. I still wish to go to China to nurse if it is possible.

I was glad to receive your kind letter and to know that I was not forgotten at the Institute. I often think of my term at the Institute, and look back on it with pleasure as one of the happiest periods of my life. Every one tried to make my term bright and cheerful, and the good Christian example that was set before us will long help me to live a better life. Especially helpful were the services you held during the week when we would be brought to the mercy seat of our loving Father and there receive love, faith and forgiveness of our sins. May you continue long in the good work. I remain yours respectfully,

(Signed) L. R. M.

The English of the following extract may appear a little queer to the reader, yet the contents may prove interesting :

Rockledge Camp, Sept. 23rd, 1905.

Dear Principal :

I hope that you do not think that I have forgotten you because I have not written to you before. . . . You do not know how sorry I am that I am not going back to school again this year. I would like to go back so much.

I don't like to see father working so hard for us, so I am going to help him this win-

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ter, and then next winter I am going back if I break my neck to go, or rather, if I am accepted. You know, Mr. Villard, there has been a little change in our family since I left school.

I have tried to make them feel the good the school has done for me, and with some success, especially with mother, father being a little harder to get at, but he is, too, changed a little. I read the Bible to them and prove to them the things that are false in their religion, for I don't call myself a Catholic, but a Methodist. I don't want you to think I am a regular good Christian, because I am not that yet, but I am better than I would have been if I was a Roman Catholic, and you know how it comes about. Well, I will only say, "God bless the F. M. I." and you will understand.

I've got one black spot on my life and I regret it every day of my new life ; it's the only thing I really feel ashamed of, because my aim is to be honest, frank and manly.

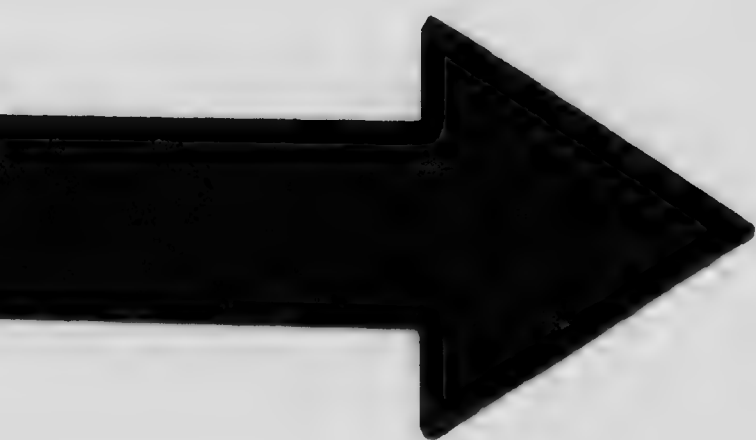
I hope that God will bless you in all your work at the school this year. I wish I was going back again, but I will go back next year, and that is saying something. From your ever grateful

J. B.

Two years ago, on my brother's advices, I entered the Institute in order to learn the English language.

It was on the 6th of December, 1904, a



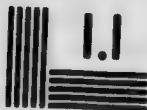


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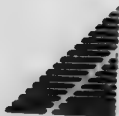
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snow-storm raging in the city. I will long remember the day. It was for me the landmark of a new life for which I thank God with all my heart. The first thing which surprised me was the affability with which I was received a new member of the Institute family.

I was delighted. Discipline and good-will blended everywhere in an atmosphere of joy and happiness.

My first year in the Institute was most profitable to me. I learned English rapidly under the able direction of my teachers. But I did more. During that first session, on a Wednesday evening, I gave my heart to the Lord. I was very sorry when vacation time arrived, but I left the school fully determined to come again. With joy I saw the day of the opening of a new session, and I went back again to my "Home."

It was not long before one of the boys had the happy thought of organizing a missionary association among the students. I had the privilege of being elected its president. I was happy of the confidence my friends had given me, but I also felt how weak a worker I was in the vineyard of the Lord. The meetings went on regularly and successfully, each one of the members in his turn having to lead the meetings. It was a blessing for us all. All the members worked faithfully and many felt that the association had brought them nearer to God.

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It was with much regret that towards the end of the session we held our last meeting, a number of the members having to go back to their families. That last meeting will be long remembered. Many that day renewed a covenant with the Lord and promised to serve Him more fully and faithfully. I do feel that the hymns, the prayers and the testimonies we heard in our association will bear fruits for the kingdom of God.

The Wednesday prayer meetings in the school were also most encouraging and fertile in blessings. A large number of the boys and girls accepted Jesus as their Saviour, some of them having come to the Institute as Roman Catholics. Twenty-three of them joined the ranks of the Methodist Church, giving the total number among the students of forty-two church members.

I cannot end this little sketch of our school life without thanking God for the teachers He has given us. Their life, their kindness, their devotion, is a living example to us all. May the Lord bless them abundantly. May He bless also him who, placed at the head of the Institute, is like a father to us all. We will never forget our Principal, always ready to help, with a word of encouragement for everybody.

The Lord has blessed the Institute. May He bless it more and more, may He bless all the boys and the girls who come there year after year to get an education, and

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may the teaching they get in the Institute remain deeply rooted in their hearts and bring forth fruits for the glory of God.

May 20th, 1906.

W. C.

The remembrance of the day when I entered for the first time the French Methodist Institute will always remain deeply rooted in my memory. That day marks an epoch in my life. It was for me the turning point from darkness into light, the setting of my foot on the path of truth.

I was born some thirty years ago in a small village of the Province of Quebec of Roman Catholic parents, whose utmost ambition was to make of their son a priest. I was brought up strictly according to the tenets of the church, and I was sent to college, where I remained until I was old enough to enter the seminary and begin my studies for the priesthood.

During the four years I studied theology I did my utmost to serve God and the church. Accidentally I overheard one day a conversation on Protestant doctrines. I had for all that bore the name of Protestant an intense distrust, the same that is instilled by the church in the mind of all good churchmen, and especially of all those who are studying for the priesthood. Although I did my best to forget what I had heard, some of it lingered in my mind, and soon doubts began creeping in my heart. From that day

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my peace was gone. All the ceremonies, all the teaching, all the means of devotion of the church could not give it back to me. Months of unrest followed for my conscience until the day when, gathering my courage, I took the decision to abandon a church which could satisfy me no more.

Leaving the seminary, I came to Montreal. There I met accidentally a young man who soon became a friend. One day he told me he was a Protestant, and he spoke to me of the Bible. Surprised to have formed a comradeship with a Protestant, I opened my heart to him and told him about my doubts, my struggles and the unrest of my conscience. He then told me that although he was brought up in the Roman Catholic Church himself, he had yet received his education in a missionary institution of the Protestant faith, that he had found there all that his heart was wishing for, and he advised me to call at one of the schools and gave me the address of the French Methodist Institute, where he said I could get all the information I wanted. The same day I was ringing the door bell of the Institute, and soon was in earnest conversation with Dr. Villard, the Principal. What surprised me most in that first interview was the cordiality and affability with which I was received. I had expected to hear disagreeable things about the Roman Catholic Church, but the doctor did not use any objectionable language.

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All he spoke to me was about the Bible and faith in Jesus Christ. Anxious to know more I asked the privilege to enter the institution. Great was my joy when a few days later I received the good news that I was admitted as a conditional student and assistant teacher, with the privilege to attend regularly the daily Bible class taught by the Principal himself.

Once a member of the large family at the Institute I was struck by the general spirit prevailing in the school. All through was reigning an atmosphere of good feeling, gladness and joy. I had been taught that Protestantism was a religion without any God, where the Virgin Mary and the saints were reviled and daily grossly insulted, where there was no prayer, no faith but a canting and whining hypocrisy. Soon my eyes opened to the fact that the religion preached and practised in the institution, whatever be its name, was the religion of love, of charity, and truly the religion of our blessed Saviour and Redeemer, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The religious services on Sunday, but more especially the Wednesday prayer meetings, in the Institute, interested me deeply, and gave me opportunity to learn more about my new friends. Three months spent with them were more than sufficient to convince me where the path lay for me, and soon I could notice a complete transformation in

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my life. Once during one of the Wednesday prayer meetings I felt a flood of joy filling my whole heart. I rose and confessed my Lord Jesus, giving Him my heart and my life. Joy, peace, and pardon were filling my soul and I thanked the Lord that He led me under the roof of the Institute, which was for me such a haven of grace.

That was four years ago, and since then I have remained in the Institute as a teacher and a member of its blessed family. Have I regretted the steps I took? No, happy I have been and happy I am to serve Jesus. I have much to thank the Lord for. I thank Him because in His all-loving kindness He brought me to the French Institute, where the same good feeling of love and charity always prevails between students and teachers and Principal. Dr. Villard has been a good and true friend to me, as he is for all of us here. Without exception he is loved by all. Indeed, strict he is, and few are the schools which can boast of having such a disciplinarian at their head. Yet he is always kind, always just. Everybody feels that the hand which is at the helm is a firm but loving one. The doctor's smile is known by all, and many times when discouragement was near, it has helped me to go forward cheerfully.

I thank the Lord for companionship with the other teachers. Their example and their life have always been most helpful to me.

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The Lord has been a Good Shepherd to me. I have not been able to give Him much in return. I have decided to consecrate myself more fully to His service in entering the ranks of those who are laboring in His vineyard and becoming a minister of the Gospel and a missionary among my fellow-citizens in the Province of Quebec.

I bless Him for the French Institute. May all those who contribute to its support and maintenance realize that their prayers and their money are not given in vain. The Institute is owned of God. Many have found there salvation, peace and joy. Many there have found the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Our missionary institutions are gardens where the seeds sown by the hands of men are watered by the heavenly dew. Strong plants are sprouting, giving their fruit in their season. These will influence the future of our beautiful Province of Quebec and give to our country men and women treading in the path of the Gospel of life and liberty.

May the Lord bless always our own garden, the French Methodist Institute.

B. L.

May 18th, 1906.

A Beloved Student—Amadee Lavoie.

Amadee Lavoie was one of the best known figures at the French Institute a few years ago. He had come to the school a fervent and devout Roman Catholic, but wishing to

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get an education, and having heard of the Institute as a good school, he had decided to apply as a student, with the firm decision not to yield an iota of his religious convictions. From the first he proved to be a young man of sterling qualities and soon got the reputation of being thoroughly earnest and true. The first session he spent at the Institute was for him full of bitterness. He could not understand how men could place any confidence in other persons than priests and in other books than the Roman catechism. Every time that the Bible was read in the school he suffered intensely. Most of his time after recitations was spent with the other students discussing religion. At the end of that first session Lavoie was a Roman Catholic as much as ever, yet as he had derived much benefit from the school he decided to come for another session. His coming was a little dreaded by the teachers on account of his strong convictions on religious matters. The session began and Lavoie was at his work in the school. He had thought much on what he had heard, the seed had been sown in a seemingly rocky ground, but under the pebbles was a rich soil and the seed had germinated, and soon it sprang forth. At one of the religious meetings of the school during the second session the young man felt all the scales fall from his eyes, and humbly but truthfully he asked forgiveness of his sins, no more from

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a man, but from his Lord Jesus Christ. His conversion was a genuine one. Lavoie had much to learn yet and especially much to suffer. When the members of his family heard that he had changed his religious convictions and publicly renounced the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, they disowned him and refused to see him any more. This was a serious trial for Lavoie; he was of a very loving nature, and he could not help crying bitterly, but he got the victory and soon regained the peace and joy he had felt in the day of his conversion.

His life in the Institute was a continued blessing. Nobody was more ready for prayer or testimony in a meeting. Nobody was more anxious to appease a threatened quarrel. Nobody was more ready in and out of season to speak of the love of Christ.

Three or four years after his conversion, Lavoie realized he had to leave the school that had been so much to him. It was perhaps the deepest sorrow of his life. But the time had come when he had to go forth and preach to the world, in words and in actions, the Gospel of Light and Liberty. Lavoie had indeed asked the Lord to be one of His missionaries. Not quite ready to enter the Christian ministry, he was given employment as a Bible colporteur, and for several months worked in earnest in that capacity. As always he did his work honestly and truthfully. But alas, the ways of

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the Lord are not our ways. Already before leaving the Institute Lavoie had felt the beginning of a terrible disease take hold of him. Soon the young man had to face the terrible truth that he was a consumptive in a most advanced stage. Not long after Lavoie heard from his physician the terrible verdict that no human help could save him.

Not discouraged, but still hoping, he went on with his work, with the same zeal and the same faith as of old. A continual cough was racking his whole body, but when advised to take a much-needed rest he answered that the Lord's work had to be done.

The end came near, and our young brother, who was about twenty-six or twenty-seven years old, had to give up. It was for him a time of sore trial, but the Lord was again his comfort. Feeling that his days were numbered and that soon he would have to meet his Saviour, he expressed the desire to see once more before dying, his good old Institute. He could hardly walk, so weak was he, yet he managed to come to the school on a Sunday afternoon. It was Sunday School hour. Lavoie listened to the lesson with the same earnestness as of old. He tried to pray and to address the school, but his voice was like a distant sound. The Principal, who was near him, repeated his last message to the students, who nearly all had tears in their eyes. The effort proved to be too much for our brother. Vanquished

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by the terrible cough, the weakness of his whole frame and the exertion, he fainted.

Half an hour later, when he had revived a little, he left the Institute to see it no more. One week or two after, our brother Lavoie, answering the call of his Master, departed, exchanging his earthly cross for the crown of glory and immortality.

What the Teachers Have Said.

If I were giving my impressions of the F.M.I. in as few words as possible I would say, for the past five years it has been a home for me.

I have vivid recollections of the first months spent in the Institute. I was a stranger in Montreal, and the work to me was new. I could not speak a word of French and a large part of the pupils could not converse in English. Disciplining boys other than that required in a day school was to me a new experience, and to keep in bounds the surplus energy of over forty boys in a school where there is no gymnasium is, at times, no easy task.

Had it not been for the kindness, assistance and encouragement rendered by our Principal, the welcome given to me by himself and Mrs. Villard in their own private apartments when I was not engaged, and the amiability of the other members of the staff, my stay at the Institute would have been much less pleasant and much shorter.

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As time passed I grew to like the work more and more in spite of difficulties connected with my work, and I feel that my association with the Institute has given me a desire for service for our Master which I had not before.

When I see that through the influence of the Institute, many boys and girls, many young men and women have decided to live a Christian life, many have been fitted to take responsible positions in life, my desire to our Heavenly Father is, that in the future He may prosper the work even more abundantly.

The evidences of progress of the Institute have been manifested by the increasing demand for admission year by year, and the many who have been refused admission on account of lack of room, and also by the happy and contented disposition of the pupils themselves and their eagerness to return to it.

It is with feelings of deepest regret but also of thankfulness for what it has done for me, that I am severing my connection with the Institute as a teacher, and I can say with all sincerity that it was for me a home where we all worked together for the good of our Master.

G. S. C.

Westmount, Montreal, May 22nd, 1906.

Said one of the Institute teachers : " The good accomplished by our Institute will

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never be told. The onlookers may see some of it, but little of it indeed. They cannot see, nor appreciate (we hardly can ourselves) the slow but progressive transformation in the character, the life, the conscience of our boys and girls, yet that transformation is a fact. There is at work a silent influence which increasingly accomplishes its work even with our coarser material."

Indeed we cannot always see, but the Lord sees and knows. Is it not sufficient?

The Value of Missionary Schools in the Province of Quebec.

The importance of educational work in connection with evangelization cannot be denied. It is but one of the means, but it is not the least important. Through their missionary schools, other denominations have reached thousands of young men and young women who probably would never have heard the Gospel, or whose religious impressions would have been nil. The Rev. Dr. J. Campbell, in his "Concise History of French-Canadian Protestantism," has said: "We cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of these (missionary) schools. Those at Pointe-aux-Trembles have already given a Christian education to about 5,000 pupils, a large proportion of whom have become true converts and have exerted an immeasurable influence for good in various walks of life."

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The Feller Institute at Grande Ligne has had a not less glorious career. It has played a most important role in educational evangelism, and its influence is felt throughout the Province of Quebec and in the New England States. From a small log house, where the work was started, it has grown to a splendid and most comfortable, capacious building, where nearly two hundred students can be accommodated.

Sabrevois College has also done good work and its past history is most interesting.

Our own Institute, although the youngest in years, has not remained in the rear. It has splendidly and rapidly grown, and, as somebody wrote not long ago, it is now "Second to none for the work it accomplishes."

We can truly repeat what the Rev. C. A. Doudiet wrote in "Our French Work," in 1899: "The schools in connection with our French Protestant churches have done splendid work. They have not only trained the pupils in the true faith of the Gospel, but they have given, and are giving them a good, solid, up-to-date education."

The important point in the teaching given by our missionary schools is that the teaching of the Bible occupies the foremost rank. No man who has been a careful observer and who has mixed intimately with our French-Canadians will deny the fact that the Bible is not for them an open book. Truly a few

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translations of the Bible in the French language are to be found in some stores where devotional books are sold, but they are all so costly as to be beyond the means and the reach of the common people. The cheap edition of the translation of the New Testament, by Monseigneur Charles Francois Baillargeon, and published in 1875 in Quebec, is now out of print, and copies cannot be found for sale anywhere. Some years ago, in company with a brother minister, who was anxious to secure a copy, we visited all the principal bookstores of the city of Montreal. Our search was a vain one. Indeed, it was rightly said: "Our duty is plain. We must do our best in our land to make of the Bible an open book for all. Let us send the Gospel to all lands, but let us not forget our own."

There is no agency in our evangelizing forces more suitable for the searching of the Book than our missionary schools. Young minds are not prejudiced or at least not deeply, and they can grasp quickly the difference between light and darkness, between truth and error, between faith and superstition. The colporteur is paying a flying visit, the missionary is heard at intervals, while in the school the Bible is constantly placed before the scholars. That daily contact with the Book is far-reaching in its effects. The continual influence of the teachers imprints itself in the hearts of the pupils and leaves

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an indelible sign pointing for a life-long duration towards the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

We cannot but concur with the statement that "It would be difficult, if not impossible, to exaggerate the importance of the great work accomplished by our missionary schools. Viewed from whatever standpoint, that work has claims upon the Church of Christ in this Dominion that must not be ignored."

Yet nowadays we seem much disposed to turn our eyes only towards the Great West. The West is booming and we follow the rush. We see the gleam of prosperity and naturally we want to take our share in moulding into Christian citizens the masses which soon will have something to say in the government of our great country. Our feeling is a noble one. But in our enthusiasm we forget that there is something to do at our own door, and we overlook the fact that "the French-Canadian people of the Province of Quebec and Eastern Ontario are searching for light, and are eager for liberty as never before." If we do not do the work, what will be the results? Mrs. W. I. Shaw, in the June number of the "Missionary Outlook," states the facts plainly, and the conclusion of her article is most suggestive. It ought to be read and pondered by all church members, and more especially by those who so often ask the question: "Why do we

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spend money to send missionaries to the French?" Why? Read Mrs. Shaw's answer and you will know why. "Let us keep the work among the French close to that among the incoming foreigners in our thoughts, prayers and efforts, for the French have in their power great influence in deciding whether the home of our grandchildren shall be Romanist or Protestant."

And this is why our missionary institutions are working hard in the east. This is why they are toiling incessantly, filling their building to overflowing, teaching and explaining the Bible to nearly six hundred boys and girls every year, exposing to them the simple but marvellous Gospel of Truth, Light and Liberty of Jesus the Saviour, Jesus the Redeemer, Jesus the Son of God.

By every means we ought to lend our help to the development of our missionary institutions, not grudgingly, but with all our heart. We will do it if we keep in our mind what was said in the April number (1905) of the "Missionary Outlook": "Our missionary schools are doing a grand and noble work infinitely useful as an agency for good. No doubt they will be before long a powerful factor for the moral and religious transformation of the Province of Quebec. . . The day will come, when not only the friends of our French work, but also those who so far have been indifferent or have turned their eyes only towards the Great West, will

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understand that it is not enough to do a little, but that we must carry on the work on a larger scale. One day spent in the French Institute would soon convince them that the Lord is using our missionary schools for the extension of His kingdom in our country. Let everybody do something for the French evangelization in this Province, let us pray together, let us believe, and let us act in the right direction, not losing time in vain discussion, but setting ourselves body and soul to the great work of this country's regeneration."

Dr. Ryckman's Testimony as to the Value of Our Educational Work.

(Extract from Dr. Ryckman's Report to the Missionary Board on "Our French Work.")

"If our evangelistic work is weak, as undeniably it is, our educational work is in good position. Our policy, then, must be to push on our educational operations by every means in our power in order to more effectual evangelism. Nothing will dissipate ignorance but knowledge ; nothing will dispel darkness but light ; nothing will overcome error but truth, and the truth must prevail. The presence of the Protestant minority in the Province of Quebec has been, and is, a mighty influence on the Roman Catholic mass, as may be seen in the attitude of that church, through its highest dig-

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nitaries, against impure literature, indecent pictures and low theatres, and in favor of temperance principles and practice, and even the better observance of the Sabbath ; for these things are of Protestantism, and in Roman Catholic countries, where Protestantism has no influence, they do not exist. Then, amidst discouragements many and great, in the spirit of our brethren of other missionary societies, in the spirit of our Master, let us maintain our ground by the side of other churches, with greater faith, earnestness and liberality than ever, in the grand enterprise of disseminating a pure Gospel throughout the whole land."

Why This Book Has Been Written.

This little book has been published to give our Methodist public and Protestants at large a correct idea of what our French Institute is, its past and present, the work it accomplishes and the important part the school is taking in the solution of that most complex and difficult problem of evangelizing the Province of Quebec.

Through their missionary schools other denominations have reached thousands of young men and young women. These in their turn have been the best supporters of the work, and many of them " have exerted an immeasurable influence for good in various walks of life."

Our own Institute is still young. It was

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founded nearly twenty-five years ago, when the other institutions had already been some forty years in existence. The French Methodist Institute was started in most undesirable surroundings. In the midst of difficulties, struggles and discouragements it has grown to its present standing ; although the building is large and comfortable it has proved far too small in late years. The Institute is second to none in results. " It is a growing institution," reported Dr. Ryckman to the Methodist Board of Missions. Growing so much, in fact, that it needs " to be enlarged to meet the requirements of the day."

The French Institute has done a great deal, more could be accomplished. Dr. Ryckman is right when he says that " nothing will dissipate ignorance but knowledge." Here comes the great importance of our missionary schools. Through knowledge they dissipate ignorance and superstition, fusing " light " and proclaiming " truth." Indeed " Our policy, then, must be to push on our educational operations by every means in our power in order to more effective evangelism."

It is not one French Institute we ought to have but two, three, four, one in every corner of the Province of Quebec. In the meanwhile let us do our best to develop the one we have in Montreal and make of it not only a first-class educational centre, which it

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already is, but also a first-class missionary training school, where boys and girls will get knowledge, light and truth, and will also learn how to disseminate them in their native land.

From a church's dark basement in the lower part of the city, the French Institute has gone up the hill and occupies now a beautiful situation in a most desirable location. From a handful of young men it could accommodate more or less uncomfortably, the French Institute has grown up to be a first-class missionary institution, filled to overflowing. The church has much to thank the Lord for. Faith started the Institute. Faith kept it going on. Let faith push it on. Our Institute is laboring quietly and noiselessly, but its march forward has been steady. The institution is, and with God's help will continue to be, "a powerful factor for the moral and religious transformation of the Province of Quebec."

To limited human sight the results of the work among the French appear most feeble. We judge by the surface. Let us not forget that the seed has been sown in a rich soil. One day it will spring forth. Then the harvest field will yield abundant fruit. The day may be distant yet, but already we can foresee its dawning. The thousands of young men and young women who have attended our missionary schools will be the heralds who will proclaim its rising. The work has

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not been and is not a vain one. The coming of the Kingdom is nearing in our Province and we may thank the Lord, because with all the other agencies engaged in the work our Missionary Institutions are "***Preparing the Way.***"

Some of the School Regulations.

The students at their entrance into the school are read the following regulations, a copy of which in French is to be found in every room :

1. The use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages is strictly forbidden in the Institute.
2. No student may leave the school ground without having obtained permission from the Principal or the teacher in service.
3. The students are not allowed to leave the school before the end of the session, unless for a good reason, they obtain leave from the Principal.
4. Students are held responsible for any damage done to the rooms they occupy or the property of the college.
5. All students are required to attend public worship on Sunday under the direction of the Principal. They are also to duly observe the Sabbath day.
6. All students are required to attend daily prayers in the morning and in the evening.
7. The use of profane or vulgar language is forbidden.

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8. Tuition fees are to be paid monthly and in advance.

A. M.

Rising bell	6.30
Study	7.00
Breakfast	7.30
Prayer	8.45
Recitations	9.00
Dinner	12.00

P. M.

Recitations	1.30
Recreation	3.30
Study	5.00
Tea	6.00
Study	7.00
Prayer	9.00

Articles of bedding are furnished by the school, thus insuring more uniformity, but the students must provide themselves with towels and napkins. They must be provided with clothing suitable for work as well as for school and church. Parents are directed to provide their children with material for mending clothes. Mending in the school is attended to by the girls. Girls and boys must have, if possible, umbrellas and overshoes, also blacking and brushes. Parents are requested not to send money directly to the boys and girls, otherwise it might be spent to the disadvantage of pupil and school. Students furnish their own text-books and school supplies. The rooms

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are assigned by the teachers in charge of the boys' and girls' departments, under the supervision of the Principal.

A monthly roll of honor has been established in the Institute for Conduct and Work. The pupils whose names are on the Roll of Honor obtain a few much appreciated privileges.

When desired, monthly reports of the student's conduct and standing are sent to parents or guardian.

The school motto is "Lux, Libertas et Lex."

The school colors are purple and white, the school ribbon consisting of three purple and two white bands.

How to induce our young people to take plenty of out-door exercise during the severe winter weather has always been a problem ; but with a rink and a slide, fresh air will become more attractive, and appetites—if it be possible—more amazing than they now are. Visitors always exclaim over our enormous bread-boxes, and the way the loaves disappear ; but ninety young people make a large family, and healthy appetites must be satisfied.

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A Short History of the Institute.

- 1880.—The Rev. L. N. Beaudry opens a Boys' Boarding School in the basement of the Craig Street Church, "French Methodist."
- 1885.—The Woman's Missionary Society opens a Girls' Boarding School in Elizabeth Street.
- 1886.—The Girls' School is transferred to Actonvale.
- 1887.—The Rev. L. N. Beaudry resigns his position as Principal of the Boys' Boarding School and the Rev. E. M. Taylor, M.A., is appointed in his place.
- 1888.—The Missionary Board and the Woman's Missionary Society decide to unite the work carried on by both Societies and to have but one school for boys and girls, to be known under the name of The French Methodist Institute. To that effect a large tract of ground is secured in Westmount, one of Montreal's suburbs.
- 1888.—October 22. The corner stone of the new building is laid.
- 1889.—The Rev. E. M. Taylor resigns the Principalship of the Boys' School, and the Rev. W. Hall, M.A., is appointed Principal of the Institute.
- 1889.—Miss I. G. Masten is appointed Head Teacher of the Girls' Department, in connection with the new school.

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Miss Masten still occupies the same position.

- 1889.—October 22. The inaugural services and formal opening of the new buildings are held in presence of delegates of the Missionary Board and delegates of the Woman's Missionary Society.
- 1895.—Death of the Rev. Principal Hall.
- 1895.—The Rev. Dr. Hunter is appointed Honorary Principal; Mrs. Hall, Lady Principal and Dr. and Mrs. W. Dalpe, Head Masters of the Boys' Department.
- 1896.—The Rev. J. Pinel, S.T.L., is appointed Principal of the Institute, and Mrs. R. Ross is appointed Lady Superintendent in charge of the Domestic Department.
- 1897.—March. A severe epidemic of measles and diphtheria occasions an early closing of the session.
- 1897.—September. Mr. P. Villard, B.A., (Paris) is appointed head master of the Boys' Department.
- 1901.—April. The Rev. J. Pinel resigns his position as Principal, and the Rev. P. Villard, M.A., is placed in charge of the school.
- 1902.—The school term is lengthened by one month and made of eight months' duration.
- 1902.—Commercial training is introduced into the school.

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- 1903.—Adjoining land is secured by the Missionary Board in view of the contemplated enlargement of the school building.
- 1904.—Isolation rooms are built to meet the requirements of the Board of Health.
- 1904.—The heating plant of the Institute, which for several years had proved totally inadequate, is replaced by a hot water plant.
- 1905.—April. An outbreak of measles causes an early closing of the session.
- 1905.—October. The school curriculum, revised in 1901, is extended, Grade 2 Academy being added to it.
- 1905.—December. Purple and white are chosen by the Faculty, and approved by the Board of Directors, to be the school colors.
- 1906.—The French Institute obtains the privilege of conducting Government examinations in the school.
- 1906.—May. The session closes with the largest average attendance in the history of the Institute.
- 1906.—Grade 3 Academy, the most advanced grade of the superior schools under the Protestant Board of Education of the Province of Quebec, is added to the curriculum of the Institute.

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